

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 009379
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02
SSM-05 PA-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00
SS-15 /079 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS:DP:RGH
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA - MR. NEUMANN
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEUR
DOD
JCS
CIA
USIA
NSC

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD; TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JANUARY 12, 1978

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE
EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR JANUARY 12.
FYI ONLY, OFFICER PRESENT TODAY WAS JOHN TRATTNER.

Q. ON CBS LASTNIGHT, THEY REPORTED NEW SETTLEMENTS ON THE
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GOLAN HEIGHTS AND THE WEST BANK OF THE SINAI. DO YOU HAVE
ANY COMMENT ON THAT?

A. NOTHING OTHER THAN WHAT WE'VE SAID MANY TIMES. HODDING
JUST SAID IT THE OTHER DAY. OUR GENERAL POLICY IS THAT WE
DON'T APPROVE OF THESE SETTLEMENTS, BUT WE ARE JUST IN
FRONT OF TALKS IN JERUSALEM, AT WHICH WE'VE SAID WE BE-
LIEVE THIS KIND OF PROBLEM CAN BE SETTLED, RESOLVED, AND
I'M NOT GOING TO COMMENT ON IT HERE.

Q. ARE YOU INTENDING TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF THE SETTLE-
MENTS AT THE JERUSALEM MEETING?

A. I DON'T THINK WE'LL HAVE TO RAISE THE QUESTION AT THE
JERUSALEM MEETINGS, NO.

Q. JOHN, DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE SECRETARY'S
TRAVEL PLANS NOW? THERE IS A REPORT IN AL AHRAH TODAY
THAT MR. EILTS HAS CONFIRMED THAT MR. VANCE WILL TRAVEL
TO SEVERAL MIDDLE EAST CAPITOLS.

A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT. I THINK WE SAID

YESTERDAY OR THE DAY BEFORE THAT THE SECRETARY LEAVES SATURDAY NIGHT FOR JERUSALEM AND THAT BEYOND THAT, THERE IS NO FIXED RETURN DATE, WITHOUT WANTING TO IMPLY THAT IT IS GOING TO BE WEEKS, MONTHS, DAYS. WE'RE NO FURTHER THAN WE WERE YESTERDAY OR WHENEVER WE SAID THAT.

Q. SHEIK YAMANI, YESTERDAY, I RECKON, HE SAID THAT IF THE UNITED STATES COULD NOT BACK THE DOLLAR AND STOP ITS DEVALUATION, SAUDI ARABIA IS BOUND TO CASH ITS MONEY IN WITH OTHER CURRENCIES.

WHAT IS YOUR STAND AND ARE THERE ANY PLANS FOR THIS ADMINISTRATION TO CURB THE DEVALUATION OF THE DOLLAR, VIS-A-VIS EUROPEAN CURRENCIES IN THE END?
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A. I DON'T HAVE ANY PARTICULAR COMMENT ON THAT.

Q. WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO TAKE THE QUESTION?

A. YES, I'LL TAKE THE QUESTION. IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE "BASKET OF CURRENCIES" IDEA, I DON'T HAVE, AS I SAY, A SPECIFIC COMMENT ON THAT. WE'VE LONG SAID THAT WE FEEL THAT IF THE DOLLAR IS IN DANGER, IT IS BECAUSE OF INFLATIONARY PRESSURES GENERATED IN LARGE PART BY THE PRICE OF OIL. THAT'S WHY WE'VE SAID THAT WE DON'T THINK A RISE IN THE PRICE OF OIL IS JUSTIFIED, AND THAT WE'RE GOING TO FIND IT ISN'T GOING TO RISE AT LEAST FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR.

BUT SPECIFICALLY, TO YOUR QUESTION I DON'T HAVE A COMMENT.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING NEW, BEYOND WHAT WAS SAID YESTERDAY, ON THE REPORTED INCREASE IN SOVIET ARMS SUPPLIES TO THE REJECTIONIST STATES, LIKE SYRIA, IRAQ, LIBYA?

A. NO. WE POSTED AN ANSWER, AND THAT'S WHERE WE ARE.

Q. THEY'VE SAID NOTHING -- THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS, NOTHING AT ALL?

A. NO.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE REPORT THIS MORNING BY JACK ANDERSON, THAT FRANCE INTENDS TO SUPPLY ENRICHED URANIUM TO IRAQ?
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A. YES, I DO HAVE SOMETHING ON THAT. WE ARE GENERALLY AWARE OF A PROPOSED SALE OF A RESEARCH REACTOR BY FRANCE TO IRAQ. OUR POSITION ON IT WOULD DEPEND TO A LARGE DEGREE ON THE TYPE OF FACILITY AND THE TYPE OF MATERIAL INVOLVED AND SAFEGUARDS BEING APPLIED, AND WE DON'T HAVE ANY OF THESE DETAILS, SO I'M VERY LIMITED IN WHAT I CAN SAY ABOUT IT. CERTAINLY, I CAN'T GIVE YOU A REACTION TO IT.

Q. ARE YOU GOING TO LEAVE IT AT THAT, THAT YOU JUST DON'T HAVE DETAILS? ARE YOU GOING TO FOLLOW IT UP WITH THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT?

A. THE FRENCH HAVE NOT APPROACHED US ON THIS DEAL. IT WAS NOT DISCUSSED DURING THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO FRANCE LAST WEEK -- TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE -- AND YOU MIGHT WANT TO ASK THE WHITE HOUSE THAT. I DON'T REMEMBER OR RECALL IT BEING DISCUSSED.

UNDER THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT FOR NUCLEAR COOPERATION BETWEEN OURSELVES AND MEMBERS OF EURATOM, INCLUDING FRANCE, OUR APPROVAL MUST BE SOUGHT IN ADVANCE FOR ANY RETRANSFER OF U.S. ORIGIN MATERIAL OUTSIDE THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, AND ANY RETRANSFER MUST BE TO A NATION WITH WHOM WE HAVE AN APPROPRIATE AGREEMENT FOR NUCLEAR COOPERATION. I DON'T KNOW IF ANY OF THIS GOES TO YOUR QUESTION, BUT WE DON'T CURRENTLY HAVE SUCH A NUCLEAR SAFEGUARD COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH IRAQ, NOR IS THERE ANY UNDER CONSIDERATION.

Q. THIS APPLIES ONLY TO AMERICAN-ORIENTED MATERIALS, BUT HOW ABOUT FRENCH-ORIGINATED MATERIALS? WOULD YOU APPROVE OF IRAQ OBTAINING MATERIALS WHICH MIGHT BE USED IN THE PRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS?

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A. WELL, AS I SAY, OUR POSITION WOULD DEPEND ON THE DETAILS OF THIS, WHICH WE DON'T HAVE, SO I CAN'T GIVE YOU AN ANSWER.

Q. BUT YOU ARE SEEMING TO IMPLY VERY STRONGLY THAT WE KNOW THAT THE ENRICHED URANIUM IN QUESTION WOULD HAVE

BEEN OF AMERICAN ORIGIN. THE FRENCH HAVE SEVERAL SUPPLIERS OF URANIUM.

A. NO, I DON'T KNOW THAT WHAT THEY ARE PROPOSING TO TRANSFER TO IRAQ IS OF U.S. ORIGIN. I'M SAYING THAT IF IT WERE, THESE ARE THE RULES THAT WOULD APPLY.

Q. IN REFERENCE TO SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA, THERE WAS A REPORT TODAY THAT THE SECRETARY IS ASKING FOR SAUDI ARABIA TO SUPPORT THE ADMINISTRATION'S ENERGY PLAN BY STOPPING THE OIL IN THE UNITED STATES AND KEEPING THE PRICE DOWN AND THE SUPPLY UP DURING THE 1980'S. THE SAUDIS ARE SAYING IN RETURN, THEY WANT SOME THINGS OF THEIR OWN, LIKE THE F-15'S AND MAYBE SOMETHING ELSE. WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THAT? AMBASSADOR WEST WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE MADE A STATEMENT IN GENERAL THAT WAS CARRIED BY AP.

A. I HAVE NOTHING NEW AND FRESH ON THAT.

Q. NOTHING ON THE F-15 AT ALL?

A. NO. CHRISTOPHER

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